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## Technical Assistance for Assessment of Turkey's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy

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# Serbian Roadmap for Circular Economy

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## Content

- 1. Roadmap** –meaning
- 2. Circular economy**
  - 2.1. definition and principles
  - 2.2. global level / UN , and link with SDGs
  - 2.3. EU level
- 3. What is important to understand at country level**
  - 3.1. Circular economy meaning: action areas and priority sectors
  - 3.2. Circular economy goes beyond policy for waste management
  - 3.3. Circular Economy goes beyond plastics use
  - 3.4. No “circular economy washing”
- 4. Process in Serbia**
  - 4.1. Main points of process
  - 4.2. Industrial Policy – Waste strategy – EU accession
  - 4.3. Road map study understanding/process
  - 4.4. **Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share....**

### 1. Roadmap – (possible) meaning

**The Roadmap for a Circular Economy** is **a tool** to help develop society toward a circular economy. It defines concrete steps for change and brings together the views of key societal actors on the necessary measures. It contains a vision, goals and concrete measures.

**The Roadmap for Serbia** aims to:

- Provide **information about the importance of transition to circular economy**, i.e. **about the new business models and competitiveness criteria**; **Identify the sectors** in which the circular economy tools can be introduced more easily; **Recognize the key actors** of change whose synchronized, joint activities can contribute to a faster transition to circular economy.

The road map must be agile to stay relevant.

### 2.1. Circular economy: definition

There are at least **more than 100 possible definitions of the circular economy\*** and many different understandings of the **concept** persist. This is indicated by the rapid growth of peer-reviewed articles on the circular economy. Advanced proposals go beyond the 4R framework, for example, 9Rs. In addition, many consultancy reports have been published.

*\*Resources, Conservation and Recycling, Volume 127, pp 221-232 (2017)*



### 2.1. Circular economy: definition

Circular economy is a scenario for societies to transition away from unsustainable linear economies that ultimately deplete finite resources; it is **transition continual long-term process**.

Reduction of resource use also translates into reductions of GHG (greenhouse gasses) emissions and less pressure on natural ecosystems (i.e. [relate with climate change](#))

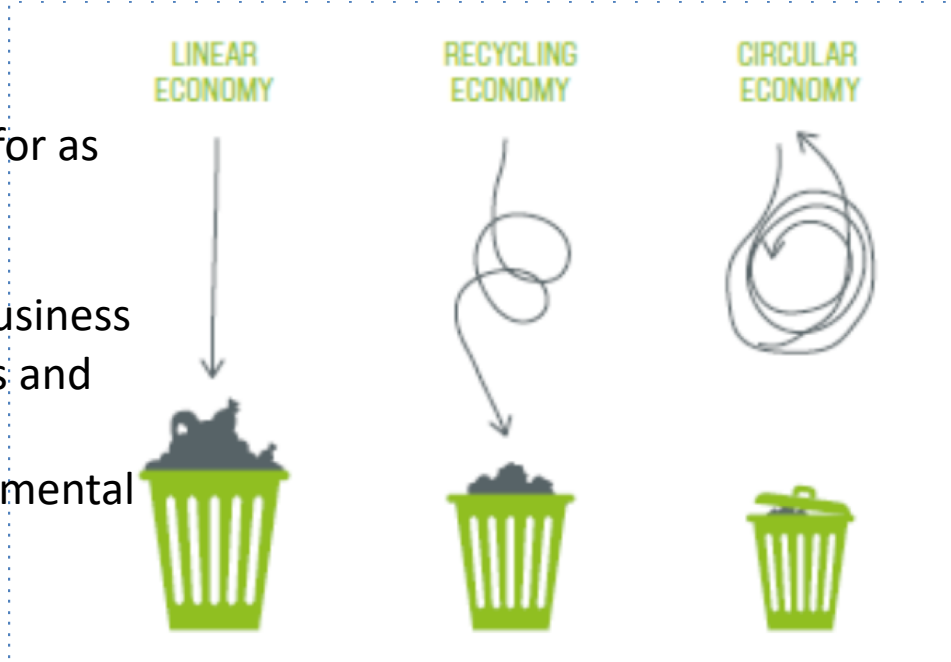
There are **three key principles**:

- **Preserve and enhance natural capital** by controlling finite stocks and balancing renewable resource flows.
- **Optimize resource** yields by circulating products, components and materials in use at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles.
- **Foster system effectiveness** by revealing and designing out negative externalities.

### 1. Circular economy: definition and principles

#### Transition to circular economy includes:

- Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible
- Minimizing waste generation
- Boosting competitiveness with new business opportunities and innovative products and services
- Bringing economic, social and environmental gains



## 2.1. Circular economy: definition and principles

There are **three key approaches** to promoting resource efficiency:

- 1) extended producer responsibility systems;
- 2) green public procurement, and
- 3) business partnerships along the value chain.



The circular economy is a **concept and a process**; it is a **long-term undertaking that benefits future generations: economic growth with environmental quality and social equity**

## **2.2. Global level / UN , and link with SDGs**

At global level, the circular economy is increasingly being seen as **shift to a more resource-efficient system**.

In 2019, the final UNEP resolution, invites Member States to achieve **sustainable consumption and production, including circular economy**, and to consider the outcomes of the GEO-6 report and the Global Resources Outlook 2019.

The 2019 World Resources Forum was centered on the transition to the circular economy, among others through the lenses of cities and regions, food and bio-based materials and industry 4.0.

In 2022, UNEA-5 saw a **global effort on resource efficiency and the circular economy**; a recognition of the importance of financing and emissions reductions; and an exploration of big data as a tool for change.

### 2.2. Global level / UN , and link with SDGs

In terms of direction, **the links between the Circular Economy and Sustainable Development Goals agendas are obvious.**

**However, the term “circular economy” does not appear in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and associated targets are set forth.** Of course, this does not mean that there is no concept of circular economy in the content of SDGs targets.. Outreach of analysis is that as much as the circular economy can help in achieving many Sustainable Development Goals targets, the Sustainable Development Goals can also help to promote circular economy practices.

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### 2.2. Global level / UN , and link with SDGs

In the Paper\*/Study\*\* we presented overall relationship scores of circular economy practices and 169 targets of the SDGs.

There are **six SDGs that are directly related** (from moderate to high level) to the implementation of circular economy:

**Goal 6 - clean water and sanitation**

**Goal 7 – affordable and clean energy,**

**Goal 8 – decent work and economic growth,**

**Goal 9 – innovation and infrastructure**

**Goal 12 – responsible consumption and production,**

**Goal 15 – life on land.**



*\*5th Eurasia Waste Management Symposium (EWMS 2020), Proceedings p.455-460*

*\*\* <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/files/Publikacija-ENG.pdf>*

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### 2.2. Global level / UN , and link with SDGs

As a summary, overall relationship scores of CE practices and 169 targets of SDGs is:

Direct contribution	Indirect contribution	Achieving target will contribute toward CE	Weak or no link	Cooperation opportunities for CE promotion
21	28	52	35	33

**Outreach** of analysis is that as much as the circular economy can help in achieving many Sustainable Development Goals targets, the Sustainable Development Goals can also help to promote circular economy practices.



## 2.2. Global level - **Circular economy: Standard(s) under development**

As a formula that describes the best way of doing something, **ISO STANDARDS ARE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED BY EXPERTS** (for example Quality management standards, Environmental management standards, Health and safety standards, Energy management standards, Food safety standards, IT security standards)

**Under the direct responsibility of ISO/TC323, in 2019 started development of 4 standards related circular economy:**

**ISO/WD 59004:** Circular economy — Framework and principles for implementation

**ISO/WD 59010:** Circular economy — Guidelines on business models and value chains

**ISO/WD 59020.2:** Circular economy — Measuring circularity framework

**ISO/CD TR 59031:** Circular economy – Performance-based approach – Analysis of cases studies

Note: France have National standard on Circular Economy XP X30-901



### 2.3. EU level

- Some ideas started within 7th EAP (2013)
- In order to encourage the transition of European economy from the linear to the circular model, in 2014 the European Commission adopted a document called Towards a Circular Economy: **A Zero Waste** Programme for Europe
- In 2015, the European Commission presented its **Circular Economy Package with Plan**, which strived for improved cost-efficiency, better balance of current accounts, increased self-sufficiency, new jobs and climate targets. The number of initiatives to implement the concept of circular economy is growing over time. The first circular economy package embedded measures focused on the areas from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials, as well as cross-cutting issues such as innovations and investments.
- A set of **ten key indicators** covering each phase of the lifecycle of products, as well as the competitiveness aspect, created the first **EU monitoring framework for the circular economy**.

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### 2.3. EU level

The EU member states have the obligation to harmonize their national policies with the new development strategies and public policies. **From 2014 to December 2018**, 14 out of 28 countries have developed a strategy, a **roadmap or an action plan** for transition to circular economy.

In May 2018, a **package of circular economy directives was adopted, redefining the goals** for collection and recycling of communal waste, package waste and special waste flows, as well as the lowest allowed percentage for communal waste disposal in landfills

In May 2018, the (new) **EU-wide rules** became: 1) adopted on waste management and recycling, 2) adopted on single-use plastic products (*the first EU-wide policy framework adopting a material-specific lifecycle approach to integrate circular design, reuse and recycling activities into the plastics value chain*), and 3) proposed on water reuse (the EU member states will be obliged to implement the legislation setting minimum requirements for reused water for agricultural irrigation) .

In March 2020, the **European Green Deal offered a new Circular Economy Action Plan** focusing on the sustainable use of resources, in particular in the textile industry and construction

Under **the new/second (2020) Circular Economy Action Plan**, the framework will be updated in 2021 to reflect new policy priorities and develop further indicators on resource use, including consumption and material footprint.

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### 2.3. EU level

European Commission (new, Second) Circular Economy Action Plan introduces **legislative and non-legislative measures** targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value. According to the second action plan, the European Commission will launch concrete actions in the **sectors which use the most resources and where the potential for circularity is high – sector of electronics and ICT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, construction and buildings, and food**. The new Circular Economy Action Plan is making **waste prevention** measures a top priority.

2022: EC published its **Sustainable Products Initiative** to make sustainable products the norm in the EU, boost circular business models and empower consumers for the green transition.

.....

The twin green and digital transitions remain to be the **flagship initiatives of the European Commission (2019-2024)** and cornerstones of the major recovery plan for Europe to help relaunch the EU economy and repair the economic and social damage brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### EU Circular Economy Action Plan

A sustainable product policy framework (including **Mandatory Green Public Procurement (GPP)** criteria and targets in sectoral legislation and phasing-in mandatory reporting on GPP )

Key **product value chains** (including the integration of circular economy practices in upcoming Best Available Techniques reference documents)

Key product value chain (including EU Strategy for Textiles, Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment..)

**Less waste, more value**

Making the circular economy work **for people, regions and cities**

**Cross-cutting actions** (including improving measurement, modelling and policy tools to capture synergies between the circular economy and **climate change mitigation and adaptation** at the EU and national level)

Leading efforts at the global level (including **Mainstreaming circular economy objectives in free trade agreements**, in bilateral, regional and multilateral processes and agreements, and in **EU external policy funding instruments**)

Monitoring the progress

Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, The Roadmap for Circular Economy, Circular Economy Training , May 2022, Antalya, Turkey

### Performance

According to the European Environment Agency report published in October 2019, **circular economy initiatives in Europe are still at early stages and they would benefit from more investments in upscaling promising innovations and monitoring progress towards circularity.**

The EU has not yet set quantitative targets for **the use of resources or improvements in resource productivity**, although some member states have set national targets in their strategies.

In the recent years, policies on ensuring **the security of supply of raw materials**, and in particular access to critical raw materials, increasingly address resource use.

### **3. What is important to understand at country level**

The European Green Deal is part of the strategy to implement the UN 2030 Agenda and to achieve the SDGs, among other priorities.

**Each individual state is competent to organize and implement the activities in the most suitable way.**

<b>Circular economy related reporting</b>		<b>National reporting</b>
Implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2030	Progress towards EU accession	

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### 3.1. What is important to understand at country level - Circular

economy meaning:

Circular economy meaning; compilation table\*

Action areas	Priority sectors	Some enablers	Key drivers
Production	Plastics	Innovative business models	Legislation
Consumption	Food waste	Eco-design	Green taxation
Waste management	Critical raw materials	Extending the product lifetime through reuse and repair	Business drivers commodity prices
Secondary raw materials	Construction and demolition	Waste management	Raw material shocks
Innovation, investigation and monitoring	Biomass Bio-based products		

\*Environmental Research & Technology, Vol 4(1), pp 83-88, 202, 2021

Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, The Roadmap for Circular Economy, Circular Economy Training , May 2022, Antalya, Turkey

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### 3.2. What is important to understand at country level- The concept of circular economy goes beyond policy for waste management in scope and in content

*(developed using the logic and structure of the circular economy action plan).*

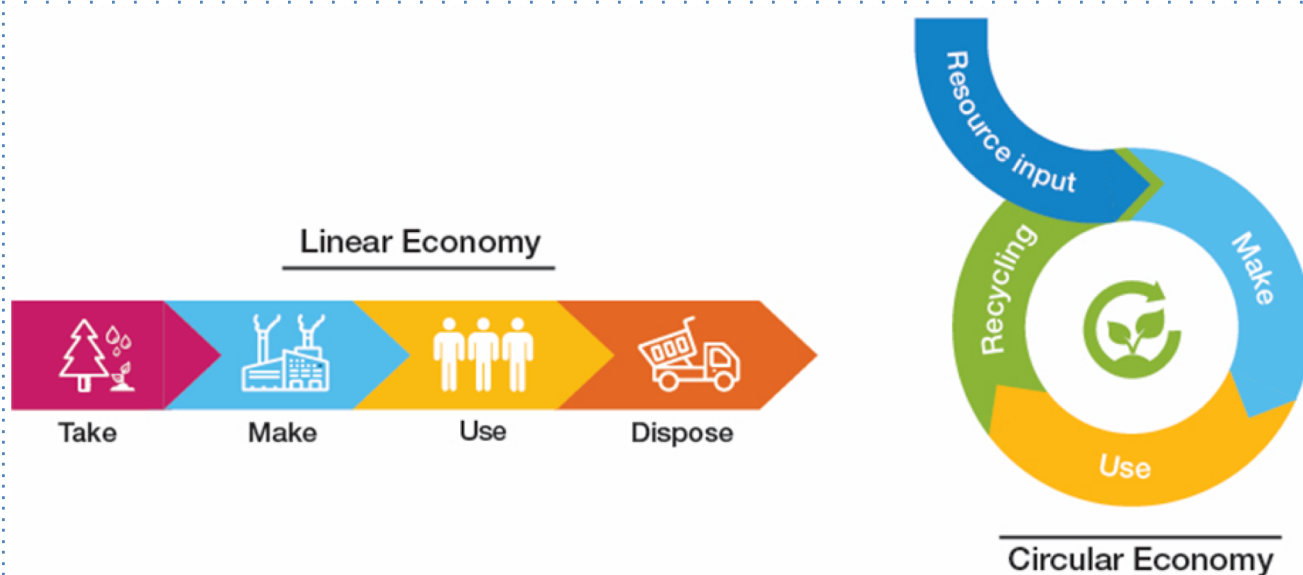
Circular economy in practice elements			
Production and consumption	Waste management	Secondary raw materials	Competitiveness and innovation
EU self-sufficiency for raw materials	Overall recycling rates	Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand	Private investments, jobs and gross value added
Green public procurement*	Recycling rates for specific waste streams	Trade in recyclable raw materials	Patents
Waste generation			This is in particular important to know in countries with economies in transition, in order to over bridge identified gaps
Food waste*			



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**NO:** Circular economy is NOT waste management hierarchy that was created in linear economy to reduce waste and retrieve materials back to production.

**YES:** Circular economy is above the waste management process, because its starting point is a brand new manner of thinking about the use of resources.



Prof.dr.Andjelka Mihajlov, The Roadmap for Circular Economy, Circular Economy Training, May 2022, Antalya, Turkey

### **3.3. What is important to understand at country level: Circular Economy goes beyond plastics use**

The Single-use Plastics Directive, part of the EU Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy introduces, inter alia:

- a ban on certain plastic products (where alternatives exist on the market: cotton buds, cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers, sticks for balloons as well as cups, food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene and on all products made of oxo-degradable plastic),
- measures to reduce consumption of food containers and beverage cups made of plastic and specific marking and labelling of certain products,
- the target for recycled content of plastic drink bottles (25% in PET bottles as of 2025 and 30% in all bottles as of 2030), the target for separate collection of single-use plastic drinks bottles (77% by 2025, 90% by 2029),
- extended producer responsibility schemes for tobacco filters and fishing gear.

**3.4. What is important to understand at country level: No  
“circular economy washing”**

**Theme of concern is that in ongoing fashion of greening/make circular development paths:**

- “green” as the word is using sometimes cosmetically, sometimes with the proper meaning for climate risk/environment/sustainable development.
- **“circular economy” as the term used sometimes cosmetically.....**

This issue is extremely important.

*UNEP at 50 should have guiding role what “green” means*

*<http://ambassadors-env.com/en/files/ACUNS-2021-AM-Greening-and-Greenwashing.pdf>*

### 4. Process in Serbia

#### 4.1. Main points of process

As the UN member state and EU membership candidate, Serbia is already committed to the circular economy concept . **However, no integrated approach is in place yet and the environmental policy framework needs to be reinforced in key economic and sectoral policies.**

The mapping the “state of the art” of the Circular Economy in Serbia entails the identification of what is present (and if possible, which are the main obstacles that may hamper the shift to the circular economy paradigm).

### 4.2. Process in Serbia: studies/documents related circular economy

In 2020, **Ex-ante analysis** of effects related (future) circular economy policy is finished , as well as Serbian Ministry for Environment, supported by UNDP, published “**A Roadmap for circular economy in Serbia**” . The purpose of the Roadmap is to encourage production through application of circular business models, to motivate industry to create new work posts and to advance doing business by detecting innovative, sustainable solutions on the market.

Also, to mention research within ENV.net project\*.

(for Serbia relevant strategy is National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods (2012-2022), with some elements relevant for circular economy; however, this strategy not have approved action plan for implementation)

- <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/content-search?populate=Serbia>
- <https://derqipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/1488288>

Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, The Roadmap for Circular Economy, Circular Economy Training , May 2022, Antalya, Turkey

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### 4. Process in Serbia, 4.2. Industrial Policy

In 2020 Serbia adopted New **Industrial Policy Strategy** 2021-2030 . At about same time EU introduced new European Industrial Strategy , and consequently this Serbian one did not take in account messages formulated in the new EU industrial policy.

The strategic challenges of the new industrial policy have been identified; this public policy document contains comprehensive reform steps in the field of industrial development and permeates a large part of economic activities, with a focus on the manufacturing industry. As a horizontal industrial policy this strategy addresses, among others, issue of the circular economy.

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### 4. Process in Serbia, 4.2. Industrial Policy

In this presentation, just to mention measures related circular economy (strategic area 6), as:

Measure	
2.5	Support program for industrial economic entities for the <b>procurement</b> of first-generation technological equipment. The measure aims to support the import of modern equipment that is <b>in line with the principles of circular economy</b> , i.e. to respect the principles of efficiency and minimal negative impact on the environment. Type of measure: incentive
5.1	<b>Promotion of the circular economy and education of economic entities.</b> This measure aims acquainting economic entities with the importance of more efficient use of material resources and energy efficiency in industrial processes and opportunities for savings in the production process and earnings. The measure will be implemented through the organization of promotional and educational gatherings and the use of services of centers that are active in this sector (Center for Circular Economy of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce; Center for Cleaner Production, Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, etc.). Type of measure: informative-educational
5.2	Encouraging <b>investment in circular and low-carbon economy solutions</b> as growth generators. Adjusting the criteria for encouraging investment in production equipment in a way that favors investment in equipment that meets European energy efficiency standards and is certified in accordance with it. Type of measure: regulatory
5.3	Encouraging <b>more efficient use of material resources and energy efficiency in industrial processes.</b> Adjust the criteria for encouraging investment in production equipment by favoring investment to use recycled resources. Type of measure: regulatory

### 4. Process in Serbia, 4.2. Waste strategy

Updated/new public policy document for waste management, as the **Program for waste management for 2022-2031** is approved , in line with EU acquis related circular economy and waste is approved ). Considering the recommendations of the European Commission on the Circular Economy, amendments to the Waste Management Act were adopted in January 2016, enabling support of the circular economy concept and creation of green jobs.



**4. Process in Serbia, 4.2. Circular economy development program**

In late 2021/2022 **CIRCULAR ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2024. YEARS**, is prepared and publicly discussed.

It covers the most important areas of importance for the circular economy: waste management; water management; renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; chemical management; green public procurement and voluntary instruments; economic policy; innovation and raising public awareness. These areas are considered in the context of the current state and potential for the application of the circular economy.

#### **4. Process in Serbia: EU accession**

Serbia is **candidate country for EU membership**; in **January 2020 Serbia presented its Negotiating Position for Chapter 27** (Environment and Climate Change). This chapter within Cluster 4 was **opened for negotiation in December 2021**.

Within the Negotiation position is plan how and when Serbia, through set of Directives Specific Implementation Plans, will implement all EU member countries obligations. **For waste management (where are circular economy targets related waste management presented), Serbia is requesting transitional period.**

Serbia has achieved *some level of preparation* in the area of environment and climate change. Overall, Serbia made *limited progress* in the past year, mainly on strategic planning.

**Serbia should considerably step up ambitions towards a green transition. Circular economy concept in Serbia is still in its early stage.**

### 4.3. Process in Serbia: Road map study understanding/process

Study **Roadmap for circular economy in Serbia\*** (2020) : **This is the initial document** aiming to **start the dialogue** between decision-makers, industry representatives, academia and civil society. The Roadmap is a **“living document”** aiming to specify the preliminary identified potential sectors and stakeholders, recognize the good practice examples and initiatives, and underline the known advantages and barriers in the selected sectors, with the goal to give recommendations for further steps for Roadmap development and transition to circular economy in Serbia.

Its purpose is to delineate the **circular business models**, steps and timeline for the future transition, with the use of **digital tools\*\***.

- <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/roadmap-for-circular-economy-in-serbia.pdf>
- *\*\* A Digital Platform for Circular Economy created by the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry*
- <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/content-search?populate=Serbia>
- <https://circulareconomy-serbia.com/>

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### 4. 3. Process in Serbia - Road map study understanding/process: **what is and why**

ECONOMY	POLITICS	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	SOCIETY
Improving development	Regional positioning	Waste reduction	Increased social wellbeing
Market development	Establishing national political consensus	Reduction of GHGs emissions	Improved consumer rights
(Horizontal) diversification of economy	EU accession	Preservation of natural resources	Saving in household budgets and improved human health
Development and implementation of new business models and technologies	Implementation of different international obligations in the area of environmental protection and climate change	Improving the energy independence and the use of renewables	Green jobs

Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, The Roadmap for Circular Economy, Circular Economy Training , May 2022, Antalya, Turkey

**4. 3. Process in Serbia -Road map study understanding/process**

**STEP 1 – FIND PARTNERS ON A JOURNEY TOWARDS TRANSITION AND PUBLIC POLICY HARMONIZATION**

List all the institutions that are actively involved in the creation of policies and all public policy document relevant to transition to circular economy

**STEP 2 – IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY IMPLEMENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY**

Regulatory and institutional framework - the implementation of circular economy requires multi-layered and multi-sectoral connections between the national public policies and regulations

Government and the Parliament must have a unique position on the policies in the context of CE.

Circular economy requires significant investments by all; the EC has announced new supportive funds.

Research and development supporting the industry

**STEP 3 - IDENTIFY PRIORITY SECTORS IN THE COUNTRY**

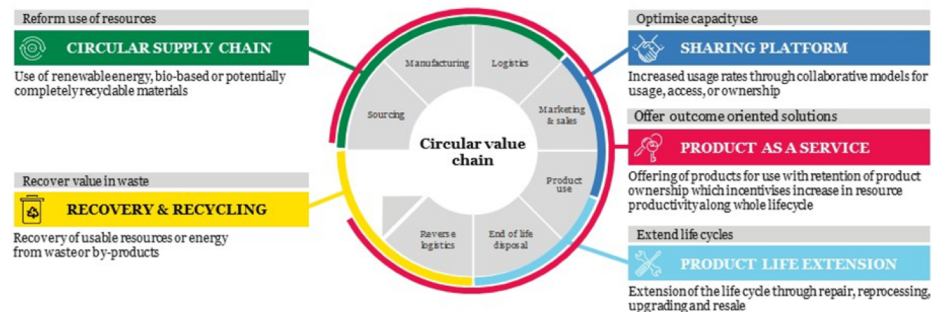
**4. 3. Process in Serbia - Road map study understanding/process**

**Circular business models:**

Sharing platforms	Sub model: Share
Resource recovery	Recycling/upcycling, Return
Product life extension	Repair & Maintain, Upgrade, Resell, Remanufacture
Product as a service	Product as a service, Performance as a service
Circular supply chain	Build to last, Circular supplies

**Note: Each circular business model has its own characteristics. Depending on the productivity needs, the models can be used individually or in combination**

Five circular business models



### 4.3. Process in Serbia - Road map study understanding/process

**Tips to select priority sectors** in line with the Country public policies and the following criteria:

1. Sectors must have the economic potential to increase competitiveness;
2. Sectors must operate with the sustainable use of resources;
3. Sectors must work on preventing waste;
4. Sectors must be available to the public; preconditions to apply circular business models already exist;
5. Sectors must be able to achieve positive effects in a short amount of time.

**Note:** The priority sectors are selected based on the possibility to quickly and adequately implement the concept of circular economy business models, by efficiently using the raw materials, increasing the value of used materials, mobilizing the use of circular economy business models for products and services, promoting energy efficiency, closing the loop in the use of materials, preventing waste generation, implementing green public procurement, and developing the circular culture in the general society.

**4. 3. Process in Serbia - Road map study understanding/process**

**By Roadmap identified priority sectors in Serbia:**





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Basic	Recommendations	
<p><b>The manufacturing industry</b> is crucial for circular economy</p> <p>The potential</p>	<p><b>Agriculture and food</b></p> <p>Food surplus and food waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an overview of the situation and necessary investments</li> <li>• Build a value chain between the food industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Promote business operations such as clusters</li> </ul>
<p><b>PLASTICS AND PACKAGING</b></p> <p>The key challenge is the plastic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform all the stakeholders (manufacturers and consumers) and institutions about the obligations to solve the issue of single-use</li> </ul>	<p>the economic and market</p>
<p>The key challenge is the plastic packaging, which is the largest individual sector of plastic consumption.</p> <p>In the circular economy, that process, the biggest challenge is adapting the industry that manufacture plastic packaging.</p> <p>The circular business models provide a sustainable solution: friendly packaging (primarily which would replace the plastic).</p> <p>Deal with COVID19 related single use plastic consumption</p>	<p><b>CONSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>The construction sector is a bank of material that can be reused.</p> <p>Construction with the use of eco-friendly materials and the role of circular design, Debris from construction &amp; demolition (if there are no landfills in construction waste - do not think about investing into landfills, instead develop this sector through circular business models, in order to find an adequate way of resource management.</p>	<p>Harmonize the procedures for monitoring of construction waste and materials between the different competent ministries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish dialogue between the competent institutions and representatives of the construction sector.</li> <li>• Enact the legal framework regulating waste management in the construction sector.</li> <li>• Promote sustainable construction and use of eco-friendly materials</li> <li>• Adapt and reconstruct buildings in line with the zero-waste model and the circular economy principles.</li> </ul>

the Directive 2019/904

**4.4. Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share....**

**Key lessons from creating a circular economy road map:**

- **Create the roadmap from your country's perspective.**
- **Co-operation is the starting point and a requirement for progress.**
- **Make sure the road map balances action with flexibility.**
- **Form a situational picture.**

#### **4.4. Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share....**

In Serbia, **main obstacles for the transition\*** to the circular economy use of natural resources and the circular economy concept are:

**not a national priority** or a strategic goal (currently only indirectly as a priority for the EU accession),

**no integrated approach** is in place (the circular economy is relevant to all sectors of the economy, not only for the waste management); Still challenge in addressing the circular economy **beyond waste management** issues

*\* Circular economy in Serbia: process started*

<https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/content-search?populate=Serbia>

*Country in transition (Serbia) case: Circular Economy starts from Waste Management, Environmental Research & Technology, Vol. 4 (1), pp. 83-88, 2021 ; <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/1488288>*

*2020 Spotlight Report on Circular Economy in Serbia :*

[http://env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Circular-Economy-Status-Report\\_EASD\\_Serbia.pdf](http://env-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Circular-Economy-Status-Report_EASD_Serbia.pdf)

### 4.4. Process in Serbia -Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share....

- Sustainability in risk management needs to be **mainstreamed and long-term thinking fostered** (environmental and climate risks are not always adequately considered by the financial sector; and social factors can also have concrete consequences for financial institutions including legal risks, etc.).
- **limited multi-sectoral approach and connection**, appropriate and adequate **waste management policy related to the circular economy**, means of financing by all sources (**often financing unsustainable recourse management models**), **capacities**, primarily at the local level and in the business sector, limited **awareness-raising and education** on the circular economy topics and the green agenda, including focusing on educating the young people,
- **more strict enforcement of the environmental policy** framework in key economic and sectoral policies (such as a proper implementation of the strategic impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, industrial directives, investment tools).
- Foster the circular economy process by **strengthen and monitor effectiveness of multi-stakeholder coalition**
- **Accelerate the education, awareness raising and dissemination of knowledge** around circular economy topics.

### 4.4. Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share....in the other words

**Develop circular economy strategies and legislation on the national and regional level** (• working on legislation preparation, • creating working groups including NGO's, industry, municipalities, ministries, the government, • setting up round tables on certain topics, • bring best practices from abroad on how certain regulations change results, • creating tools for a green/circular public procurement)

**Industrial policy review and cooperation with the private sector** (• mapping waste management and recycling strategies and infrastructure, • creating good case practices, • creating circular platforms, • regional cooperation in prevention of plastic pollution, • creating zero waste concepts for administration and industry, • innovation projects promotion)

**Cooperation with municipalities** (• waste management analysis of residual waste and sorted waste, • introducing and implementing organic waste collection systems, • circular city scans, • door to door collection, • waste collection management strategies and infrastructure, • 'pay as you throw' system development, • smart solutions for waste data collection, • creating circular maps of cities, • creating guidelines for citizens on waste prevention and waste sorting.)

**Studies on certain topics** (like new plastic economy, • reducing plastic waste, • microplastic, • bioplastic, • textile industry challenges, • waste management systems in cities/regions, • food waste prevention.)

**Consumer awareness initiatives** (e.g. reduce, reuse, repair) (regional, national and international events with topics of the circular economy, • implementation of the circular economy principles into the events, • workshops on repairing, reusing, clothes SWAPs-a type of swapmeet wherein participants exchange their valued but no longer used clothing for clothing they will use, • events promoting local and circular designs, • shared economy promotion in the field of transport, • starting a library of things)

**Educational activities** (national or regional school programmes with practical excursions to waste management and recycling plants, landfills, • workshops on repairing, rethinking, reducing and reusing)

## Technical Assistance for Assessment of Turkey's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy

### 4.4. Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share...The circular economy has to be included everywhere:.

<b>PUBLIC</b>	<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b>	<b>INDUSTRY</b>
APPLYING PRINCIPLES OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN EVERYDAY LIFE	TEACHING THE NEW WAY OF THINKING AND LIVING WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT	SOLUTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES ACCORDING TO THE HIERARCHY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT	DESIGN FOR CIRCULARITY (D4C)
<b>WE HAVE TO WALK THE TALK</b>	<b>EDUCATING THE FUTURE GENERATIONS</b>	<b>FOCUSING ON WASTE PREVENTION</b>	<b>BUILDING SOCIAL (and environmental/climate) RESPONSIBILITY</b>

### 4.4. Concluded remarks: Some challenges to share....

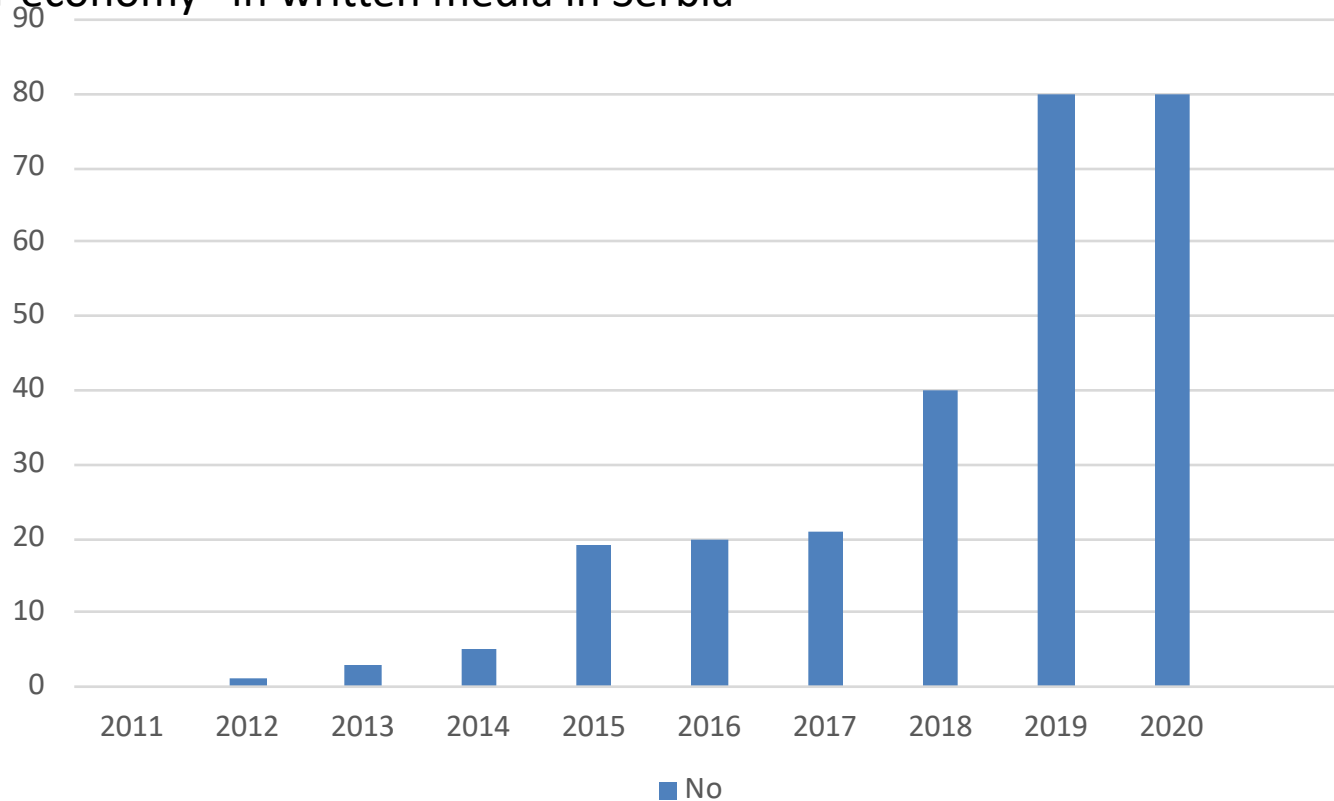
It should also be noted that circular economy issues in the accession process to EU are **not only subject of Chapter on Environment and Climate Change or Cluster 4 in the 2020 Methodology COM(2020) 57 final** ; the circular economy is relevant to all sectors of the economy.

New methodology **for the full EU membership prospects of the Western Balkan countries** was examined alongside the EU's political, security, and economic interests.....; it means **the Western Balkans leaders must deliver more credibly on their commitment to implement the fundamental reforms required, whether on rule of law, fighting corruption, the economy or ensuring the proper functioning of democratic institutions and public administration, and foreign policy alignment.**

Western Balkans leaders must also show further efforts **to strengthen regional cooperation and good neighborly relations** to bring stability and prosperity to their citizens, while giving confidence to the EU that the region is addressing the legacy of its past.

## Technical Assistance for Assessment of Turkey's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy

And....**one more signal related circular economy in Serbia**: number of articles with term “circular economy” in written media in Serbia





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### CIRCULAR ECONOMY: WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES AND TURKEY CURRENT PERFORMANCE\*:

**Circular economy in WB and Turkey is in early stage**



<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/presentations/green-deal-action-plan-turkey>

*\*\*Guidelines on Circular Economy for the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey, EEB, Institute for the Circular Economy, 2020 ; [http://ambassadors-env.com/en/files/guideline-WBT\\_INCIEN\\_final.pdf](http://ambassadors-env.com/en/files/guideline-WBT_INCIEN_final.pdf)*

Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, The Roadmap for Circular Economy, Circular Economy Training , May 2022, Antalya, Turkey

4.4. Concluded remarks:

The circular economy is a **concept** and a **process** ; it is a long-term undertaking that benefits future generations: economic growth with environmental quality and social equity.



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